wherein said drug is a biologically active therapeutic purine compound or a purine nucleoside or purine nucleotide compound and said azide group occurs on the purine base of said purine compound or said purine nucleoside or nucleotide compound.

2. (cancelled) N^6-azido-β-D-3'-deoxyribofuranosyl purine, or a monophosphate, diphosphate triphosphate or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. (cancelled) 6-azido-2',3'-dideoxy-2'-fluoro-β-D-arabinofurasylpurine or a monophosphate, diphosphate or triphosphate or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. (cancelled) 9-(β-D-arabinofuranosyl)-6-azidopurine or a monophosphate, diphosphate or triphosphate or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. (cancelled) 2-amino-6-azido-1,9-dihydro-9[(2-hydroxyethoxy)methyl]-purine or a monophosphate, diphosphate or triphosphate or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. (cancelled) 2-anino-6-azido-1,9-dihydro-9-[dihydroxymethyl]propyl-purine or a monophosphate, diphosphate or triphosphate or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. (cancelled) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 comprising an azide derivative selected from the group consisting of azide derivatives of biologically active therapeutic purines and pyrimidines, nucleoside analogs and phosphorylated nucleoside analogs.

8. (cancelled) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 comprising an azide derivative selected from the group consisting of azide derivatives of aminoglycoside antibiotics.

9. (cancelled) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 comprising an azide derivative selected from the group consisting of azide derivatives of ampicillin and ampicillin analogs.

10. (cancelled) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 comprising an azide derivative selected from the group consisting of azide derivatives of sulfonamides.

11. (cancelled) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 comprising an azide derivative selected from the group consisting of azide derivatives of cephalosporin and cephalosporin analogs.

12. (cancelled) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 comprising an azide derivative of a biogenetic amine.

13. (cancelled) The pharmaceutical composition of claim1 comprising an azide derivative selected from the group consisting of azide derivatives of alicyclic amines, ketones, or hydroxy-substituted compounds, including aralkyl, heterocyclic aralkyl, and cyclic aliphatic compounds, where the amine or oxygen moiety is on the ring, or where the amine or oxygen moiety is on an aliphatic side chain.

14. (cancelled) A method of increasing the half-life of a drug in a subject, which drug comprises an amino, carbonyl or hydroxy moiety, comprising the steps of:
(a) providing an azide derivative of said drug in which an azide group occurs at the site of and in place of a carbonyl, hydroxy, or amine moiety of said drug, said azide derivative being capable of being reduced to the drug in the subject's body by replacement of said azide group with said amino, carbonyl or hydroxy moiety;
(b) administering said azide derivative to a subject.

15. (cancelled) The method of claim 14 in which said drug is cordycepin.

16. (cancelled) The method of claim 14 in which said drug is 2'-F-ara-ddI.

17. (cancelled) The method of claim 14 in which said drug is AraA.

18. (cancelled) The method of claim 14 in which said drug is acyclovir.

19. (cancelled) The method of claim 14 in which said drug is penciclovir.

20. (cancelled) The method of claim 14 in which said drug is selected from the group consisting of biologically active therapeutic alicyclic amines, ketones, and hydroxy-substituted compounds, including aralkyl, heterocyclic aralkyl, and cyclic aliphatic compounds, where the amine or oxygen moiety is on the ring, or where the amine or oxygen moiety is on an aliphatic side chain.

21. (cancelled) The method of claim 14 in which said drug is selected from the group consisting of biologically active therapeutic purines and pyrimidines, nucleoside analogs and phosphorylated nucleoside analogs.

22. (cancelled) A method for ameliorating a pathological condition in a patient, which pathological condition is capable of being ameliorated by a selected drug which comprises an amino, carbonyl or hydroxy moiety, comprising treating the patient with a therapeutically effective azide compound which is capable of metabolizing *in vivo* to said selected drug by replacement of an azide group thereof with an amino, carbonyl or hydroxy moiety to form said drug effective for the treatment of said pathological condition.

23. (cancelled) The method of claim 22 also comprising co-administering said azide compound with other therapeutic agents.

The following claims are new:

24. (New) <u>The composition according to claim 1 wherein said azide group is on the 2 or 6 position of the purine base of said azide derivative</u>.

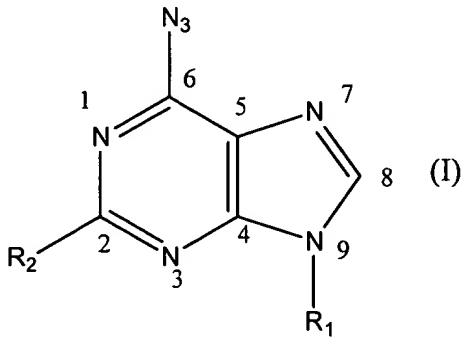
25. (New) The composition according to claim 1 wherein said drug is a purine compound.

26. (New) The composition according to claim 1 wherein said drug is a purine nucleoside or purine nucleotide compound.

27. (New) The composition according to claim 26 wherein said drug is a purine nucleoside compound.

28. (New) The composition according to claim 26 wherein said drug is a purine nucleotide compound.

29. (New) The composition according to claim 1 wherein said azide derivative has the formula



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wherein R_1 is

(1) a substituted or unsubstituted furanose or dioxolane that is bound at the 1' position to the N 9 ring nitrogen of the purine of formula (I), or is

(2) R_3-OR_4, where R_3 is a C_2-C_5 alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl and -OR_4 is a C_2-C_5 alkoxycarbonyl or alkoxy alcohol, and

wherein R_2 is H, O, NH_2, or NHAc.